

GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM

Historic ✨ Authentic ✨ Illuminating

News from the Gibson House



Photo by Mary Prince, Mary Prince Photography

Gibson Society, Inc. **2022–2023 Annual Report** October 1, 2022–September 30, 2023

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to be able to report upon another rewarding and successful fiscal year at the Gibson House. We welcomed ever-increasing numbers of visitors who took our tours and attended our programs, which included lectures on Gilded-Age fashion and painter John Singer Sargent's female subjects, Pride Month celebrations, a Holiday Open House, and our Annual Benefit and Repeal Day party. To our great delight, we received a two-year Mass Humanities Staffing Recovery Grant that will allow us to create new opportunities for visitation and engagement. Keep an eye open for more on upcoming events!

Moreover, through the generosity of private donors and grants, we have been able to pursue important restoration projects, such as repairing degraded windows on the Museum's upper floors and damaged plaster in the ground-floor service spaces. Such undertakings will ensure that the museum remains preserved, protected, and inviting for years to come.

Our late president, **Ruth Ann Kupfer**, who unexpectedly passed away in January, was

gratified by these developments. A longtime board member, Ruth was always interested in ways the Museum might remain both sustainable and vibrant. To this end, ***we have set up a fund in Ruth's name*** that will help support future Museum operations and projects. We invite you to consider a donation to this fund and to be inspired by Ruth's legacy of dedication, service, and vision.

The Gibson House is a special place, not only for its historic architecture, unique collections, and fascinating stories of 19th- and early-20th-century life, but also because of its people. From the family who created this lovely home to their employees who kept things running, to our contemporary caretakers of board and staff, and you--our visitors, friends, and supporters--the people have made all the difference. We can't thank you enough for your support and involvement.

Sincerely,
Michelle Coughlin
Museum Administrator



Attendees enjoy the Museum's 2023 Annual Benefit at the St. Botolph Club.

Treasurer's Report, FY 2022-2023

Submitted by Samuel H. Duncan

Revenue was a little less and expenses a little more than budgeted. Expenses were \$135,441 against a budget of \$133,679. Sources were \$123,948 against a budget of \$131,943. The deficit was close to the amount of budgeted draw from the general endowment that was not taken this year (about \$11,000). Net deficit was \$11,493.

Rental income was an important factor in this year's budget. Revenue was 183% of budget. Also significant were non-board donations to the Annual Benefit (151% of budget). Rental income is difficult to plan for, as are Benefit donations, but this year they represented significant income that mitigated other areas where revenue was not as good as planned (for example, board-member donations to the Benefit were 45% of budgeted amount).

Again this year there were significant donations to the Hammond Family Curator Fund, and not drawing the budgeted amount from the general endowment increased the balances

held in endowments and mitigated investment losses due to market volatility. At the end of the year, net holdings in the endowment accounts were up about 14%.



Curator Meghan Gelardi Holmes (far right) takes Gibson House Museum staff and guides on a visit to the Paul S. Russell Museum of Medical History and Innovation at Mass General Hospital prior to launching a medical-history program series.

Curator's Report, FY 2022-2023

Submitted by Meghan Gelardi Holmes

This year was a busy and productive one. Thanks to the generosity of a private donor, we were able to hire a conservator from the Williamstown Art and Conservation Center to survey our collection of approximately 75 prints. Based on this assessment, we sent one of our more valuable works, an 18th-century mezzotint of General Joseph Warren (hero of the Battle of Bunker Hill and a Gibson-family relative) to Studio TKM conservators for treatment. (This print is now on loan to Historic New England for their *Importance of Being Furnished* exhibition.) We also hired Colleene Fesko, a Boston-based fine arts and antiques appraiser, to conduct an appraisal of our paintings collection; the previous appraisal was over thirty years old. With additional support from another group of donors, we conducted a full inventory and assessment of our costume collection (over 80 garments), which has resulted in improved catalog records and housing, and plans for increased interpretation.

List of Donors

Contributors

1859 Club

Dr. F. Towne Allen

Rosamond Warren Allen and Paul Landry

Susan Ashbrook and Fritz Casselman

BackBayHouses.org/Nancy and Thomas High

Jacqueline D. Blombach and Michael A. Duca



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Matthew L. Somers and Frederic B. Lincoln
Lauren Thomas and Peter Der Manuelian
Katherine B. Winter
Ana Yankova and Angus Scott

Donors for Fiscal Year 2022–2023

Robert Allison
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Kurt Baker
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Joan and Frank Christison-Lagay
Bradley Cohen
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Liane and Don Crawford
Diane Davidson, Fine Home Group at Keller Williams
Mark Davis
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Robert Davison
Sheila and Charles Donahue
Richard Doring
James Draper
R. Tripp Evans
Kim Fay
Steve Gaskin



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Susan Weatherbie
John Wolfarth
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Edward Zuker
Linda Zukowski



Benefit Committee Co-Chairs Janet Dracksdorf and Jackie Blombach

Raffle Donors

Bacco's Wine and Cheese
BackBayHouses.org/Nancy and Thomas High
Jacqueline D. Blombach
Peter Der Manuelian
Michael A. Duca
Nancy Jane and Samuel H. Duncan
French Library
Friends of the Gibson House Museum
Linda and Todd Gernes
Edward W. Gordon
Mary Ethel Grady/Willow and Urn Antiques
Huntington Theatre
International School of Boston
Carter Jackson
Perring Family

Donors in Recognition


Todd Gernes, in honor of Charles Hammond Gibson, Jr., for programming
Robert B. Severy, in honor of Michelle Coughlin, for paintings restoration

Donations in memory of Patrick Dooley, former Gibson family employee

Elizabeth and Keith Brooks
Martha Favre and Francis Mangan
Ann and Thomas Gallo
Jean and Fraser Geiwitz
Patricia and Rhodri Harries
Nina and Jack Mangan

Designated Donations/Matching Gifts

Boston Community Preservation Fund Grant
Frances Duffly for Boston Preservation Alliance membership



Nancy Jane and Samuel H. Duncan for Hammond Family Curatorship Fund
Diane Gipson for restoration
Graham Holdings employee matching grant for Linda Gernes
Mass Humanities two-year Staffing Recovery Grant
Mary Hammond Norton for Hammond Family Curatorship Fund
F. H. Perry Builder (Allison Iantosca) for Boston Design Week participation fee

2022 Repeal Day "special ask" for costume-collection research and preservation

Susan Ashbrook
Robert B. Dimmick
Carl Doebler
Frances Duffly
Nancy Jane and Samuel H. Duncan
Craig Hughes
Scott Jarrett
James Mahoney
Chris Matthias and Ken Turino
Sean O'Donnell
David O'Dowd
Mark Schueppert

2023 Benefit "special ask" for purchasing curtains

Ron Brooks
Nancy Burden
Paul Connolly
Mark Davis
Robert B. Dimmick
Janet Dracksdorf and Stephen Mills
Maryanne Duca
Frances and Thomas C. Duffly
Nancy Jane and Samuel H. Duncan
Stephanie Fletcher
Denise Gilardone
Diane Gipson
Craig Hughes
Ruth Ann Kupfer
K. Loman
Chris Mathias and Ken Turino
Roanne Neuwirth
Maureen O'Hara
Nancy Olson
Stacey Richards
Laurie Thomas and Peter der Manuelian
Jessica White

In-Kind Services

Fisher College, for snow removal and lawn maintenance
Garden Club of the Back Bay, for exterior floral plantings
Jim Hood, Jim Hood Design, for Benefit invitation design
Chris Mathias and Ken Turino, for Nahant walking tour





Museum Open Hours

Tours are offered Thursday through Sunday; please [check our website](#) for details and to book our "At Home with the Gibsons" tour or one of our specialty tours, below.

Upcoming Specialty Tour Dates

Upstairs, Downstairs: Domestic Service at the Gibson House

Thursdays, Sept. 5, 12, & 26, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 15, 3:00 p.m.

Charlie Gibson's Queer Boston

Thursday, Sept. 5, 6:00 p.m.

The World of Little Women at the Gibson House

Sunday, Sept. 29, 3:00 p.m.

To book a private tour, please contact info@thegibsonhouse.org. Please note extra fees may apply.

Please Support the Gibson House Museum

There are many ways to support the museum's mission of education and preservation; all are greatly appreciated. Please consider the following (links in list):

- *Donate
- *Renew your membership
- *Shop at our online gift store

If you would like to discuss **Planned Giving** options, please contact us at 617-267-6338 or info@thegibsonhouse.org.



The Gibson House Museum is a private, nonprofit house museum in Boston's historic Back Bay neighborhood. The home served as residence to three generations of Gibson family members and their household staff between 1859 and 1954. The museum's four floors of period rooms, including the original kitchen, are a time capsule of domestic life in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Visitors experience the house through guided tours that interpret class and culture through the stories and objects of the people who lived and worked there.



[Visit Our Website](#)

Gibson House Museum | 137 Beacon Street | Boston, MA 02116 US

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